

#### REMARKS

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent No. 6,563,793 (hereinafter referred to as Golden) in view of US patent No. 7,359,984 (hereinafter referred to as Hackney). New claim 7 is added herein. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the amendments submitted herewith and the following remarks.

Claim 4 is directed to a method for relaying Internet Protocol (IP) packets to an external control component assigned to a network node in a communication network. As amended claim 4 in part recites the following structural and/or operational relationships:

“defining in each interface of the network nodes a first rule for determining if the in-band IP signaling packet is intended for the external control component;

in the event the in-band IP signaling packet is determined as intended for the external control component, each interface of the network nodes having a second rule for identifying which of the plurality of external interfaces received the in-band IP signaling packet, . . .”

Support for this amendment can be found at least paragraphs [0041] through [0044] in the disclosure of the present invention. (US patent application publication). See also paragraph [0047] in connection with support for new claim 7. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Golden and Hackney fails to describe or suggest the foregoing structural and/or operational relationships as recited in amended claim 4. More particularly, Applicant respectfully submits such a combination fails to disclose first and second rules as recited above. Consequently, claim 4 is now in condition for allowance over the combination of Golden and Hackney.

It is also respectfully submitted that the combination of Golden and Hackney fails to describe or suggest the additional structural and/or operational relationships of claim 7 related to configuring a VPI and/or VCI number in the IP packets to the external control component with rules to operate that component. Consequently, based on its own recitations (as well as based on its dependency from claim 4), claim 7 is also not rendered unpatentable by the combination of Golden and Hackney. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the USPTO to pass such claims to their allowance.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the claim pending in this application recites patentable subject matter, and it is further submitted that such a claim complies with all statutory requirements and thus such claim should be allowed.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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